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Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources

Managing
Pres'quile's Biodiversity - Page 4

Presqu'ile

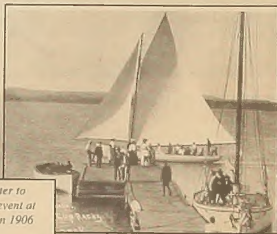
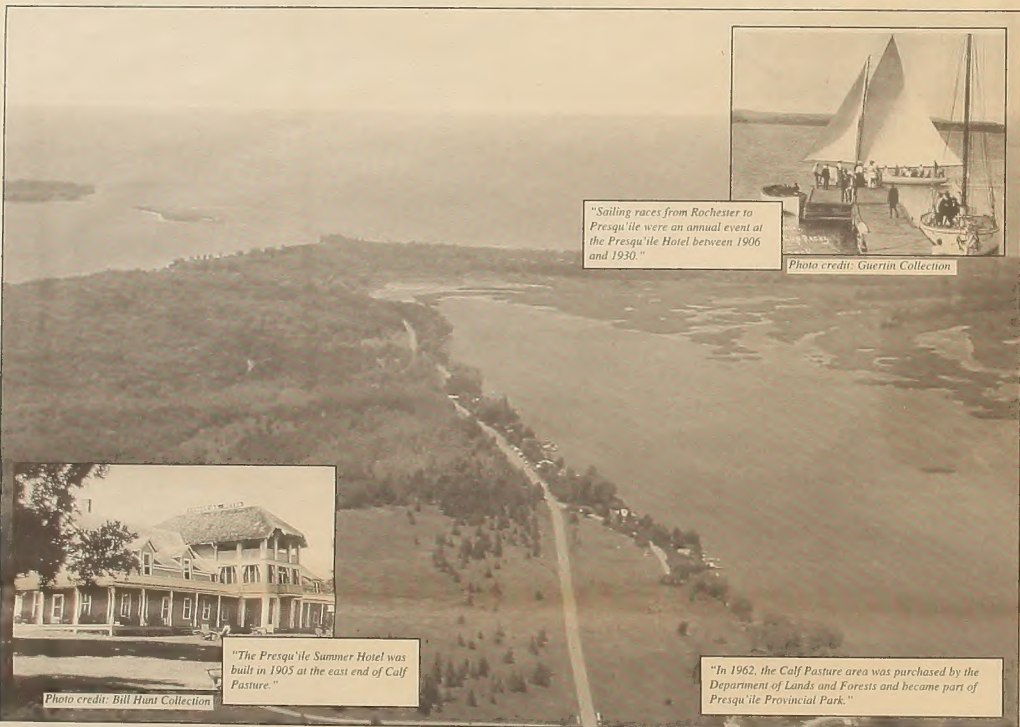
Provincial Park, 1997 Facilities, Services and Programmes



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with Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources.



Calf Pasture — What Calves?



"Sailing races from Rochester to Presqu'île were an annual event at the Presqu'île Hotel between 1906 and 1930."

Photo credit: Guerin Collection



Photo credit: Bill Hunt Collection

"The Presqu'île Summer Hotel was built in 1905 at the east end of Calf Pasture."

"In 1962, the Calf Pasture area was purchased by the Department of Lands and Forests and became part of Presqu'île Provincial Park."

OF ALL THE PLACE NAMES at Presqu'île, Calf Pasture is the most unusual. It refers back to the days before the provincial park was created, when this area was the site of the Atkins farm. Today, Calf Pasture harbours most of the old field habitat on the peninsula. The area is home to many interesting plants and animals, and it has a long and colourful past.

The history of Calf Pasture is intimately linked to the nearby waters of Presqu'île Bay. To guide ships safely into harbour in the Bay, the federal government built the lighthouse on the point in 1840. It recognized the importance of maintaining the forest cover on the peninsula to serve as a windbreak for the sheltered harbour.

By the mid-1800s, however, concern was growing about the amount of land being cleared on the point. To safeguard the harbour, the Dominion of Canada transferred the peninsula to federal control in 1871. This legislation effectively blocked further agricultural development and the construction of permanent dwellings at Presqu'île for a decade.

Temporary or seasonal dwellings

were another matter entirely. Cottages continued to be built along the shoreline of the bay. The tree-cutting also proceeded, although at a reduced pace. In 1878, a summer home owned by the DeMille family was the first building at Calf Pasture Point. By the turn of the century, a seasonal community of cottages had become established on the shoreline of the bay.

As the number of people using the area grew, pressure mounted for the provision of additional facilities. A school was built at the west end of Calf Pasture in 1894 to educate children living on the peninsula. Since space was at a premium on the point, the schoolhouse doubled as a church for Monday evening services for local residents. Presqu'île's first wells were drilled in 1907, with one at Calf Pasture and one at the lighthouse. The first complete road linking the point to the mainland was finished in 1908.

Recreational pursuits became paramount on the peninsula in 1915, when Peter Covell was granted permission to erect the Presqu'île Summer Hotel. It was located at the east end of Calf Pasture, opposite the present day site of the government dock. The hotel was to be the social centre

of the point. Opening day activities on July 1 included races, swimming contests, music and dancing. Guests were ferried from the Brighton wharf to the hotel by the "Mystic," Captain D. Cunningham's steamboat, for a fee of 15 cents.

In 1912, the hotel was expanded with the addition of tennis and badminton courts, more rooms, a riding stable, and a dance pavilion. First class from the very beginning, the hotel drew major attractions like Herb Bell and his Merry-makers, and Guy Lombardo's band. An annual sailing race held on July 4 from Rochester to Presqu'île was initiated in 1906, and continued into the 1930s. The construction of a larger dock in 1934 allowed steamships to reach the hotel. Events of the hotel era are recreated each summer by the park's interpretive staff as part of the History Weekend, on the civic holiday weekend.

Presqu'île's harbour was becoming less and less important for shipping. Since the government of Canada had no further reason for keeping control of the point, it was transferred back into provincial hands in 1920. Two years later, the Presqu'île Park Commission was

created to manage the peninsula. In 1922-23, the Commission laid out some cottage lots at Calf Pasture, bought four farms for \$23,000, and undertook several roadway projects.

One legacy of the Commission days is their intensive program of reforestation. Between 1934 and 1944, they planted 90,000 trees throughout the park. Plantations of white and red pine as well as white spruce border Calf Pasture. Many Norway spruce and Scots pines were also planted. Although the area near the bridge was reforested, drainage problems killed the saplings. The planting furrows are still evident today in the field just northwest of the bridge.

Presqu'île became Ontario's fifth provincial park in 1956. Tree planting was continued by the Department of Lands and Forests (renamed the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1972). In the early days, the motto seemed to be: "the only good field is a reforested field." With the modern emphasis on biodiversity, the importance of field habitats is now being re-evaluated.

Old field areas support an amazing variety of plants and animals, including some species

that are endangered in Ontario. It turns out that fields have a much higher natural diversity than conifer plantations. The plantations are closely spaced monocultures of evergreen trees that allow very little light to reach the forest floor, and the needles make the soil turn acidic. Few plants can survive under these conditions, and only a limited number of wildlife species can survive in this artificial habitat.

With the construction of modern roads and highways in the province, the days of grand resorts like the Presqu'île Summer Hotel ended. In 1962, the Calf Pasture area was purchased and became part of Presqu'île Provincial Park. This acquisition allowed park users access to Presqu'île Bay. Nine years later, the hotel was torn down.

The calves may be long gone, but the pasture will remain a unique place as it continues to undergo its natural regeneration. ■

Painted Ladies and a Bottle of Wine

OLD FIELDS LIKE THE one at Calf Pasture are home to a wide variety of butterflies. Like many insects, butterflies are intimately linked with wildflowers. Each species of butterfly feeds on one (or more) particular kind of wildflower or other plant. If the host wildflower is absent from a region, then so is the butterfly. Similarly, the blooms will wither without producing seeds unless they are pollinated. This type of relationship, where both parties benefit, is termed symbiosis.

Butterflies are only dependent on specific wildflowers in a certain stage of their life cycle. It is the caterpillar who is the fussy eater. Probably the best known example of precise food habits is the Monarch, whose larva feeds only on milkweeds. Adult butterflies are not so particular about what flowers serve as their nectar source. In general, they tend to be attracted to red and orange blossoms, but they will readily visit other flowers too.

Both Painted Lady and American Painted Lady butterflies may be found at the Pasture. Caterpillars

of the American Painted Lady are black with spines and a row of white spots down each side. Field pussies are one of the few plants that it eats. This small, white wildflower is very fuzzy, hence the name.

In contrast, the Painted Lady is known to eat over 100 species of plants. Its caterpillar is variable, with a lilac to yellow-green body, black mottling and a black head. Often eggs are laid on thistles, giving rise to the common name of Thistle Butterfly. When this species is abundant, it may threaten crops of soybeans, corn, and sunflowers.

Adults of the two painted lady species are medium sized butterflies, with upwings that are orange, brown and black. Although quite similar when seen in flight, the butterflies can easily be distinguished when they land. The American Painted Lady has much more prominent eyespots on the underwing than the Painted Lady. Eyespots are thought to distract predators, giving the butterfly time to escape. Those predators that do attack may get only a piece of the wing.

instead of biting the butterfly's precious body.

Contrary to popular belief, the Monarch is not the only migratory species of butterfly found in the fields of Presqu'île. Painted Ladies and American Painted Ladies also migrate. Since these two species are not able to survive the cold winters in northern parts of their range, they are killed-off annually. Northern areas must be recolonized by migrants from the south each year. The permanent population of Painted Ladies is found in Mexico and the adjacent southwestern United States.

Every few years, Painted Ladies undergo a population explosion. As a result, they may be common to abundant one year and absent the next. Flights of migrants in the south have been estimated at 300 million individuals! Dramatic increases in the southern population of Painted Ladies might be tied in to climate changes produced by "El Niño." This term refers to periodic currents in the Pacific Ocean.

Populations of American Painted

Ladies also fluctuate, but this species is understood even less. It is also a matter of speculation just how many butterflies of each species make the return migration in the fall.

There is still much to be learned about the butterflies of Presqu'île. The situation is very different regarding birds, for instance,

Birders record a considerable amount of information in the park each year. For butterflies, however, there are few reports. Any information concerning present or past butterfly observations at Presqu'île would be most appreciated. Sightings of butterflies on the peninsula are now being added to a computer database. ■



Resistance is Futile!

UNDER COVER OF darkness, they have left their homeland. Shrouded in mystery, their exact origins are unknown. With horde upon horde of reserves, their numbers are legion. On reaching the shores of our lake, their assault will be merciless. And even before our defenses are mobilized, one thing is certain — resistance is futile.

Alien species are such an overwhelming part of our surround-

ings that we take them for granted. Most of our species of field wildflowers, often called weeds, are in fact aliens. Queen Anne's lace, ox-eye daisy, butter-and-eggs, common st. johnswort, common mullein, dame's rocket, and creeping bellflower are just a few examples. All these wildflowers are common at Calf Pasture. Visit any city, and the first birds encountered will likely be pigeons, starlings and House Sparrows, all imports from

Europe. These species have been introduced around the world, and are now cosmopolitan.

Unfortunately, more new alien species arrive in Ontario every year. Most of them are not brought in deliberately, but simply "hitchhike" here in some fashion. Marine organisms like zebra mussels and spiny water fleas can cross the ocean in the ballast of ships. Plants escape from cultivation and find their way into the wild. Seeds wash up on the shores of Presqu'île from distant sites.

The Cabbage Butterfly is a "traditional" alien. It arrived over 100 years ago, and has spread throughout much of the continent. Other aliens, like black swallowwort, have been present in North America for some time, but are continuing to spread into new areas. The House Finch is an example of a species that is not exactly alien, but is not exactly native either.

Cabbage Butterflies, also called Cabbage Whites, were introduced from Europe into Quebec in about 1860. The inconspicuous caterpillar is green with a thin yellow line down the top and a dashed yellow line along each side. It feeds on members of the mustard family. This caterpillar is a true gourmet; its preferred diet includes cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and sometimes turnips, radishes and lettuce. This

preference for crop plants has made it public enemy number one in the butterfly world within the fresh produce industry.

An exhaustive analysis of its life cycle has revealed that its most deadly enemy is rain. Rain drops dislodge the tiny larvae from their host plants and the caterpillars are often injured or drowned. Cabbage Butterflies are the most common species at Calf Pasture and along the roadsides of Presqu'île.

At first glance, Black Swallowwort seems innocuous enough. A member of the milkweed family, it was first discovered in the park during a trip to High Bluff Island a few years ago. Several specimens were seen growing in open field areas. Only a few days later, the observers found it in the fields of Calf Pasture.

Also known under the delightful name of "dog-strangling vine," this species was accidentally introduced into the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton in 1955. Black Swallowwort is a serious threat to native plants because it grows in dense stands, shading out the competition. It has been present in the Toronto area since at least 1899, but has only recently started to spread rapidly. Warmer, drier conditions over the last two decades may have aided in this range expansion.

This plant may also benefit from seeds being dispersed on the mud of hikers' boots.

House Finches are native to North America, but alien to Ontario. Their home range is in the western part of the continent, from British Columbia south to Mexico and east to Nebraska. In the 1940s, cage-birds were released on Long Island, New York. First seen in Ontario in 1972, this species had reached Presqu'île by May 20, 1976. It was found nesting in Brighton in 1983, and near Calf Pasture only three years later.

According to recent estimates, the population in the province is doubling every 3.3 years. A count of 1,967 on the Presqu'île area Christmas Bird Count of 1994 suggests that the House Finch may be here to stay.

We have come a long way from the days when misguided individuals decided to introduce all of the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's plays into the New World. Purple Loosestrife, zebra mussels, and a host of other species have forced a new awareness on us. Careful research and planning is needed to turn this new awareness into new solutions.

Resisting the spread of aliens may seem futile at times, but positive steps are being taken. ■



Nesting House Finch. Photo credit: Jim Richards. (Inset): L-Dame's Rocket, R-Ox-eye Daisy.

The Superintendent's Page

Park Notes

Radio Free Area

This year Craigs Campground will be designated as a radio free area. Compliance is voluntary, meaning - a camper can choose to camp in the radio free campground. You may, however, use a radio with headphones, such as a walkman, within the radio free area.

Premium Campsites

In every provincial park there are campsites that are the most sought after sites and which are always in high demand. At Presqu'île Provincial Park the waterfront campsites were selected as our premium sites. Because of the heavy usage and high demand for these sites, a premium rate will now apply to 22 of our waterfront campsites.

Islands Off Limits

Gull and High Bluff Islands are the breeding grounds for one of the most diverse waterbird colonies on the Great Lakes. During the breeding season, over 70,000 pairs of gulls, terns, herons and cormorants nest in the trees and on every square metre of ground available. Because competition for nesting sites is so intense, a poorly-timed visit to the islands can lead to widespread panic among the birds, the separation of young from their parents, the robbing of nests by other birds, and the death of hundreds of chicks. For these reasons, all access is prohibited from March 10 to September 10.



Cyberparks!

Now you can surf the parks through our world wide web site. The Ontario Parks web site is your electronic gateway to learning more about provincial parks. You can find out how to plan your camping trip, make your reservations, find out what activities are offered for you and your family and how to join a Friend's group.

Each park has their own page and regional and provincial maps are provided to help you pinpoint your destination. You can reach us at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/parks/. The web site is titled, "Welcome to Ontario Parks". Be sure to check us out the next time you go surfing the net!

Dogs on the Beach

For the health and safety of all of our park visitors, dogs and other pets are not allowed on the beach or in the swimming areas. This policy is in effect not only during the peak summer months, but during the spring and fall as well. We do this in order to protect the thousands of migrating shorebirds which stop to rest and feed on Presqu'île's beaches and mudflats each year. If allowed to roam free, pets will frighten these birds, thus disrupting their feeding patterns, and causing them to leave the area before they have built up adequate fat reserves for their long spring migrations to the Arctic or their equally-demanding fall migrations to South America.

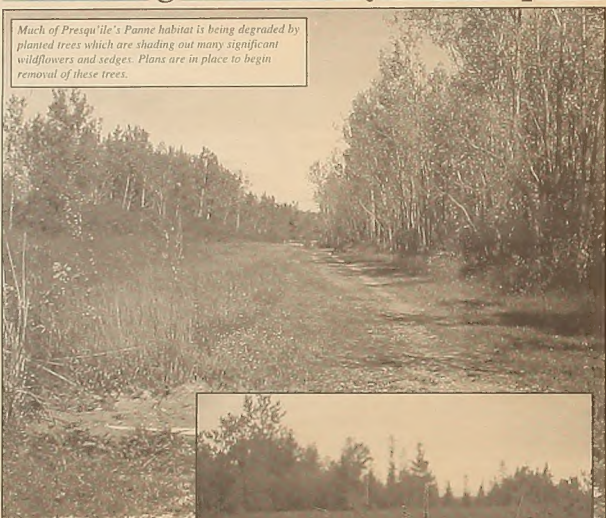
This Beach is For the Birds

For many years the beach south of Beach #4 has not received any sort of grooming and is now known as the "Natural Beach". This action is intended to provide a feeding and resting area for the thousands of shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers etc.) which gather at Presqu'île during migration. To minimize disturbing these birds while still providing viewing opportunities a trail with three viewing stations has been made. If you are interested in seeing the shorebirds feel free to quietly walk the trail. Please respect the defined viewing areas. If you are travelling to and from the Campground follow the trail which leads from High Bluff Campground to the Park Store and Beach #4.



Protecting Biodiversity at Presqu'île

Much of Presqu'île's Panné habitat is being degraded by planted trees which are shading out many significant wildflowers and sedges. Plans are in place to begin removal of these trees.



DURING THE RECENT development of Presqu'île's Management Plan many groups and individuals have clearly stated their belief that habitat diversity is by far the park's most significant feature. Overwhelmingly it was felt that every effort should be made to enhance, restore and protect the natural diversity of Presqu'île.

In recognition of the magnitude of the many resource management initiatives required for Presqu'île, Ontario Parks has created a new position dedicated towards protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of Presqu'île. In October of 1996, Don Tyerman, Presqu'île's former Natural Heritage Education Leader was assigned to the newly created position of Biodiversity Specialist.

While, it is sometimes best to let natural processes take their course, there are several cases where active resource management is required to restore and protect the natural diversity of Presqu'île. A good example can be seen along the main road that passes from the park gate towards the campground office area. This stretch of road passes through one of Ontario's rarest habitats - the Panné. Following completion of Presqu'île's management plan critical resource protection work will begin in the Panné.

Panné habitats form only in the low areas found between sandunes. These areas are prone to prolonged flooding during the autumn, winter, spring and early



Typical "Panné" habitat is sparsely treed with a rich flora of smaller plants, many of which are rare.

summer. In late summer, pannes become extremely dry. A combination of too much water for much of the year followed by extreme drought creates intolerable conditions for most plant species. The plant community that does survive however is extremely unique and includes several rare species.

The Panné plant community at Presqu'île needs active management to ensure its long-term survival. In years gone by, little was known about pannes. Because of their scarcity of trees, pannes were often thought to be "waste-areas". In order to "improve" such places they were often planted with spruce and pine trees. At Presqu'île, thousands of Scots Pines were planted since saplings they were able to overcome the harsh conditions which had prevented trees from naturally seeding in the Panné. Now well-established, the planted Scots Pines are overwhelming much of Presqu'île's rare Panné vegetation.

There is only one way to protect the Panné at Presqu'île - remove the planted pines! While this may seem an easy task at first glance further examination reveals that it is actually rather daunting. There are thousands of trees to cut and dispose of with-

out unduly damaging the surrounding Panné vegetation!

With the help of visitors, naturalist clubs and school groups, park staff plan to begin removing the planted pines in the winter of 1997/98. During the summer months inventories of vegetation growing in the affected areas will be made. Upon completion of initial pine removal, comparisons will be made between cut and uncut areas. By carefully monitoring the effects of ongoing resource management efforts, work can be fine-tuned to best reach the desired results.

Although pine removal in the pannes at Presqu'île promises to be a challenging project it is absolutely essential if we value this special habitat. Pine removal in Presqu'île's pannes is just one of many projects that the public and resource specialists have highlighted for the park through the Management Planning process. If you are interested in learning more about this or other forthcoming resource management initiatives please drop by the visitor centre or park office. Better yet, why not lend a hand as it will require thousands of hours of careful work to protect Presqu'île's incredible diversity of natural habitats. ■

Camper Information

Campsites

Presqu'île has eight campground areas offering a total of 394 reservable campsites. There is sufficient variety in the location and exposure of these sites to satisfy most tastes, however, choice is often limited by the popularity of the park.

Reservation Service

Reservations are generally not required during the spring and fall seasons. However, if you plan to camp at Presqu'île on the Victoria Day Weekend, or at any other time between late June and Labour Day, you should make a reservation. **Tip — The easiest way to make a campsite reservation is by telephone using a credit card.**

How To Make A Reservation

1. Reservations may be made by telephone, mail or in person. We charge a small fee for this service.

Telephone Reservations:

The reservation phone number is (613) 475-2204.

The park reservation phone line is open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is closed on all statutory holidays.

Mail-in Reservations:

The address for mailing reservation requests is:

**Presqu'île Provincial Park
R.R. #4, Brighton, Ontario
K0K 1H0**

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each mail-in reservation request. Mail-in reservation forms are available at any provincial park office.

Please Note: We do not accept faxed reservation requests.

In-Person Reservations:

Reservations can be made in person at the main gate, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., May 1st to Labour Day. (A maximum of two reservations may be made at one time.)

What We Need To Process Your Reservation Request

- * Name and full mailing address
- * Arrival and departure date
- * Type and size of camping equipment (tent or trailer)
- * Number of people in your party
- * Credit card number, Visa/Mastercard and expiry date

Note: When making a reservation for another party we will need all of the information above, about the person occupying the site.

All Reservations Must Be Guaranteed

With a Visa/Mastercard or payable by a cheque/money order (payable to the Minister of Finance).

Note: cheques arriving less than 21 days before your arrival date, cannot be accepted.

Reservation sites must be paid for at the time of booking or a credit card number given to 'hold' a site until your arrival.

Reservation Changes

Call (613) 475-2204

If you need to change your campsite or the dates of your reservation, you must phone the reservation line or mail-in information to the reservation clerk.

Cancellations

Call (613) 475-2204

If you must cancel your reservation, be sure to let us know by 12:00 noon on the start date of the reservation. A full refund will be issued for your camping fees. The reservation fee is non-refundable.

Cancellations received after 12:00 noon on the arrival date will be charged one night's camping fee, plus the reservation fee.

Prepaid reservation sites are held only until 8:00 a.m. of the morning following the start date of your reservation. One night's camping fee, plus the reservation fee is charged for all unclaimed reservations.

Delayed Arrivals

Call (613) 475-2204

If you are going to be delayed or not able to come on time, please let us know. Failure to cancel a reservation will result in a "no-show" after 8:00 a.m. on the day after the expected arrival date.

When the Park is Full

If there are no sites available and you do not have a reservation, we can tell you when the next earliest site will be opened. Please ask at the Camp Office and our staff can then reserve a site for you. Check in and check out time is 2:00 p.m. If we are unable to accommodate you, our staff will help direct you to other private campgrounds.

Group Camping

Ten reservable group camping sites are available through our reservation service at Presqu'île. These sites are generally open to youth or special groups, however, when not in use, they are reserved by adults. The facilities provided at our group sites include: firepits, vault toilets and drinking water.

According to the Public Health Act, organized groups of 10 or more people, camping for five or more consecutive nights in a

provincial park, must obtain a summer camp licence. Information may be obtained from the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit, 35 Alice Street, Brighton, Ontario, K0K 1H0. The Health Unit's telephone number is (613) 475-0933.

Self-Serve Fee Collection

During the off-season we may ask you to pay for your day-use and camping fees at a self-serve fee collection station. Please follow the instructions as posted. **Sorry, but refunds are not available. Please be prepared to provide your own correct change.**

Additional Vehicle Parking

At Presqu'île, we have approximately 130 campsites which will comfortably accommodate a second vehicle without causing damage to the surrounding vegetation. Thus, we are able to offer most campers the convenience of parking a second vehicle on their campsite.

All second-vehicle-campsites are labelled as such on the registration board at the Camp Office. Please do not drive your additional vehicle any more than necessary.

If you obtain a campsite which is not designated for two vehicles, please park your additional vehicle in the additional vehicle parking area in your campground loop. **Permits are required for all vehicles and must be displayed clearly on your vehicle's dashboard.**

Alcoholic Beverages

Alcohol is banned at Presqu'île from May 9 to 19, 1997. Once the ban is lifted, you may consume alcoholic beverages on your registered campsite only.

Firewood

You may buy firewood in one cubic foot bundles at the park woodyard located at the entrance to High Bluff Campground and also at the Park Store and Camp Office.

Woodyard Hours of Operation:

May 9 to June 26
(Friday and Saturday)
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Victoria Day Weekend

(Friday to Sunday)
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

June 27 to August 31

(Daily)
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

September 5 to October 11

(Friday & Saturday)
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Pay Telephones

You will find public pay phones at the Park Store and the Camp Office.

Shelter Equipment

To avoid overcrowding and to minimize damage to campsites, the Ministry of Natural Resources limits the quantity and type of shelter equipment that you may place on a registered campsite. A campsite and vehicle permit authorizes you to place one vehicle and up to three pieces of shelter equipment (for example, a tent or a tent-trailer) on your campsite. However, only one of these three pieces of shelter equipment can be a tent-trailer, a house-trailer or a self-propelled camping unit. Thank you for your co-operation.

ATTENTION BOARDSAILORS

NOTE: When on the main beach, boardsailors may launch and operate only from Beach #1. In other parts of the Park, boardsailors may launch from areas that are not designated for swimming. Refer to the map on Page 6 for further details.

Important Park Information and Rules

This is a summary of rules prepared for your convenience, and is not a complete list of the various regulations which apply in provincial parks. Since certain rules (snowmobiling, hunting, etc.) affect individual parks differently, you should contact the Park Office if in doubt about how a specific rule applies to the park you are visiting. There is one basic rule in Ontario Provincial Parks: **HAVE RESPECT FOR YOUR FELLOW VISITORS AND THE PARK ENVIRONMENT.**

Loud Noise — Disturbing Other Persons:

Be considerate. Please keep the volume of your music — and your voices — to a reasonable level. Interfering with anyone else's use or enjoyment of a park, day or night, is not only inconsiderate — it is also contrary to park regulations. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Most provincial parks permit drinking of beer, wine and other spirits — **BUT ONLY ON A REGISTERED CAMPSITE.** Drinking or the possession of an open container of alcoholic beverage in any other area of the park is against the law. **And please take note — some provincial parks prohibit the consumption or possession of alcohol during the spring camping season.** **Camping and Vehicle Permits:** Please remember that you must have a permit to camp or to use your vehicle in a provincial park. Please display your valid permit on the dashboard of your vehicle.

Additional Vehicles: A number of designated parking spaces are set aside in each park for additional vehicles. However, when a park is

full or nearly full, it may not always be possible to secure a parking space for a second vehicle.

Unlicensed Motor Vehicles, All Terrain Vehicles: Provincial parks and park roads are not for the use of ATV's, off-road motorcycles or any other unlicensed vehicles. They may be operated only in an area designated for that use.

Bicycles: May be operated on roadways only. **Parking:** Vehicles may be parked only in areas provided for that purpose.

Check Out Time: Check out time is 2:00 p.m. on the day of your departure. You must vacate your site by that time. Campsite vacancies cannot always be guaranteed — it is best to call ahead and reserve a campsite.

Length of Stay: The maximum length of stay in a provincial park campground is 23 days in a year.

Park Resources: They're yours to enjoy, so help us to protect them. Our parks are full of interesting and precious vegetation, wildlife, natural earth features and archaeological/historical sites. **Remember, it is against the law to remove or destroy anything in a provincial park.**

Pets: All pets must be kept under control and on a leash and are not allowed in swimming areas or on any beach. **Please clean up after your pets.**

Compliments: Campfires are permitted in fireplaces only. **PLEASE** be careful with fires, at all times.

Hours of Closing: Only registered campers may remain in a provincial park during the posted hours of closing — 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. **Number of People Per Site:** A

maximum of six persons or one family unit is permitted on each campsite.

Refuse: Please have regard for the condition of your campsite. Deposit all of your garbage and litter in the containers provided and leave your campsite in a clean and natural state.

Fireworks: Possession or use of fireworks in any provincial park is prohibited at all times.

Firearms: Firearms are not permitted in provincial parks, except by regulation.

Hunting: Hunting is not allowed in provincial parks except in specific areas defined in the hunting regulations.

Boating, Waterskiing: Act safely and in accordance with the regulations when boating or waterskiing. Please check — the use of motorboats may be restricted or prohibited in some provincial parks.

Leaving Vehicles or Boats

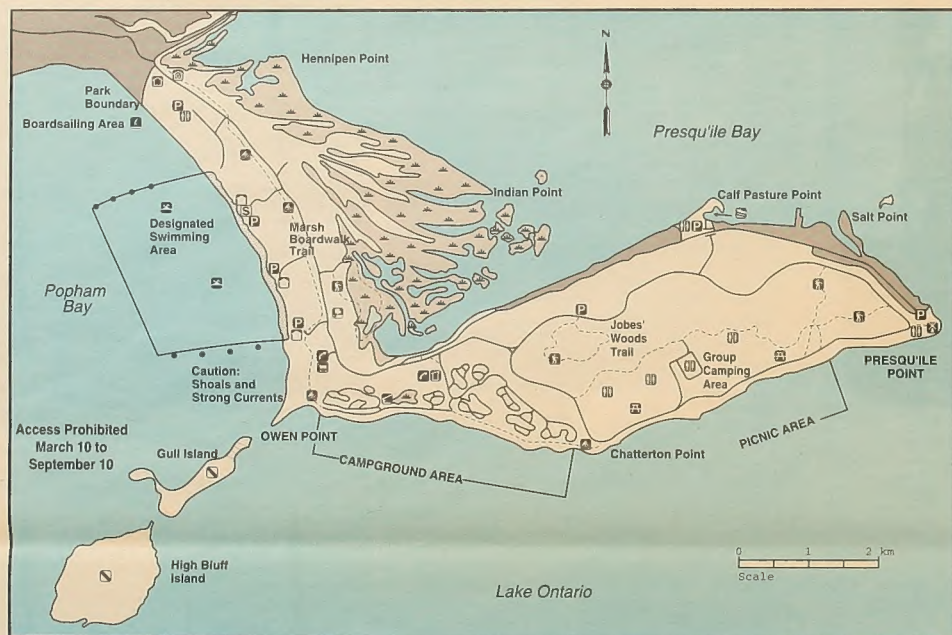
Unattended: You may not leave your vehicle or boat unattended in a provincial park, except in an area designated for that purpose or by permission of the Park Superintendent.

Sale of Goods and Services: Only authorized concessionaires are permitted to sell goods and services in a provincial park.

There is a Provincial Parks Act as well as other legislation in which all the laws that apply in provincial parks are set out. These are available at the Park Office and You are invited to examine them. The penalty for violation of these laws may be eviction from the park, a fine imposed by the Courts, or both.

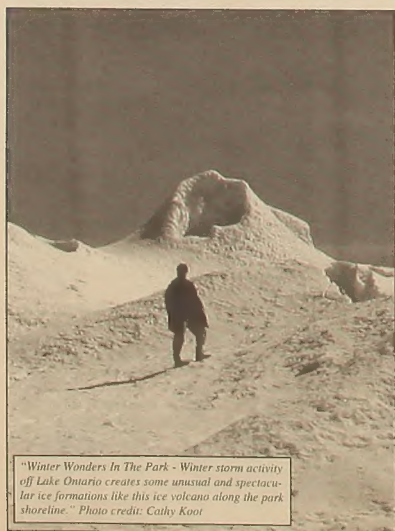
Camping Opportunities

Park Boundaries and Day-Use Facilities



LEGEND

Presqu'île Lighthouse & Interpretive Centre	Boat Launch	Hiking Trail	Trailer Dumping Station	Toilet
Friends' Nature Bookstore	Park Office/Friends Office	Access Prohibited	Snack Bar	Comfort Station
Picnic Area	Firewood	Parking	Gatehouse	Swimming Area
	Pay Telephone	Bicycle Path	Park Store	Boardsailing Area
		Marsh	Beach Area	Camp Office



"Winter Wonders In The Park - Winter storm activity off Lake Ontario creates some unusual and spectacular ice formations like this ice volcano along the park shoreline." Photo credit: Colly Koot



Apart from making a real contribution to the Park you will receive:

- The "Beacon" our tri-yearly newsletter detailing Friend's activities.
- A 15% discount on all purchases you make at the Friends' Nature Shop.
- An invitation to The Friends Annual Meeting and Cook-Out held in June of each year. (A chance to meet your "Friends")
- An opportunity to Volunteer for Friends activities in the Park.
- A Membership Card.
- Tax Receipts for Donations you care to make to the Friends.

Become A Friend! Be A Friend! Join The Friends of Presqu'île Park!

Memberships and Donations can be dropped off at Presqu'île Park or mailed to:
The Friends of Presqu'île Provincial Park
Box 1442, Brighton, Ont.,
K0K 1H0
613 475-1688

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV./CODE _____

PHONE _____

Membership Categories:
Individual \$10.00 Family \$15.00 Corporate \$35.00

Cheque enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
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Donation: \$ _____ (The amount of this donation cannot include the above membership fee.)

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- 2. TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY
- 3. CYCLE ROUTE
- 4. GARDEN TOUR
- 5. ANTIQUE HUNTING
- 6. SCENIC TOUR



Festivals & Events

May:

Colborne's Apple Blossom
Tyme Festival on the Victoria
Day weekend.

June:

Donnybrook Auction Sale in
Warkworth on June 21.

July:

The Cobourg Waterfront
Festival on the July 1 weekend.
This is the largest Canada Day
celebration outside Ottawa.
The Kente Portage Festival at
Carrying Place on County Road
64 on July 12 & 13.

August:

The Campbellford-Seymour
Agricultural Fair on August 8-
10 to celebrate its 130 something
year.

September:

The Warkworth Fall Fair is on
September 13-14.
On September 26-28, it's
Brighton Applefest for one of
the best fall festivals around.

A Short Jaunt from Presqu'ile Provincial Park

The Apple Route

Take Highway 2 west from Presqu'ile Provincial Park and stop at a roadside fruit market for fresh produce, baked goods or preserves. Along the route you'll see a number of orchards that offer tours and pick-your-own opportunities. Farmer's markets are found weekends in Brighton, Campbellford, Cobourg and Port Hope. Take a stroll around Colborne to see some of the marvellous new murals. Follow County Road 25 north and don't miss the Hoselton Studio for unique Canadian gifts and art. Stop at The Big Apple for the pie factory, a bite to eat and goodies to take back with you. Take Highway 2 east to go through more orchards, roadside fruit stands and end up in Trenton. The RCAF Memorial Museum is well worth a visit.

Land Yachting on the Trent-Severn Waterway

The Trent-Severn Waterway is a national historic site that is well known to boaters, but well worth a visit by "land yacht" as well. Drive north on Highway 30 to Campbellford, where you'll find the twin flight locks of Ranney Falls south of town. Bring your fishing pole, bring a picnic or just watch the boats locking through. On the other side of the river, you'll see Ferris Provincial Park, a nice place for a stroll and a swim. On Albert's Lane off Highway 30, the Memorial Military Museum is well worth a visit with quite a collection of aircraft. Across the way, you'll find Prototype Research, who make modern replicas of classic old car designs. North of Campbellford, on County Road 50, you'll find the double flight locks of Healey Falls, as well as the falls themselves. Don't miss the Empire Cheese Factory east of Campbellford on County Road 38. This is the first independent cheese producer east of Toronto. Don't miss the curds, or the salsa cheese for zip.

The Waterfront Trail

The Waterfront Trail, from Burlington to Trenton, runs right past Presqu'ile Provincial Park. You can walk, hike or bike as far as you like. The western route follows the lake front and then heads up to Highway 2; the eastern route goes down County Road 64 to Fort Kente along the Murray Canal and then up Highway 33 to Trenton. Cycle The Apple Route (see above). A trip up Highway 30 takes you through rolling farm country with antique shops, tea rooms and a chance to view the elusive wild turkey.

The Garden Tour

Northumberland abounds in wonderful gardens — herb gardens, perennial gardens and garden tours. Travel north on Highway 30 and turn left onto County Road 21 at Hilton. After a few minutes you'll come to Cedar Valley Gardens, a perennial garden, that is laid out in gardening challenges ie: the dry garden, the wet garden, the shade garden, etc. Continue north on Highway 30 and west on County Road 29 to Warkworth. North on County Road 25 to the 3rd line and then west to Schoolhouse Gardens, a wonderful herb garden. These guys are passionate about herbs. Ask them for directions to Secret Garden Willow Works, near Warkworth. Back to Highway 30 and north to Campbellford where Roy's Rose Garden on Dossie Street, will overwhelm you with the scents, colours and beauty of roses.

Antique Hunting

Antique hunting is a favourite past-time in Northumberland. Brighton has some fine antique and craft shops on the main street and tucked away. Head east along Highway 2 to Grafton where a fine collection of shops await you or north on Highway 30 for more tucked-away finds. On a leisurely drive from shop to barn to auction sale to flea market to yard sale, if you can't find it here chances are it never existed.

Just for Kids

The kids will enjoy an outing to The Big Apple, where there's mini-golf, basketball, a petting zoo, playground and apple exhibit. Brighton Speedway on County Road 64 has go-carts, bunting cages and races every Saturday night. The Roseheart Carousel on Highway 45 offers a thrilling ride on May 18 & 25, June 8, 21 & 22, July 5 & 13, August 3, 17 & 31. Give them a taste of history at Proctor House in Brighton, Fort Kente in Carrying Place or Barnum House in Grafton.

A Scenic Drive

Take Shelter Valley Road north from Grafton for one of the prettiest roads in Northumberland. Then go along County Road 22 to Castleton, up through the hamlet of Warkworth and over to Roseheart on County Road 24. The Warkworth Cheese Factory has great ice cream. This is where the rolling hills of Northumberland really start to roll, so watch your tummy. And believe it or not, this is where the Canadian Cycling Team does some of their trials. On Highway 45 head south through the Northumberland County forest and return to Presqu'ile by Highway 2 known as the Heritage Highway.



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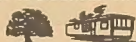
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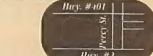
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Garbage Disposal

You will receive two garbage bags when you register at the Camp Office. Items that can be recycled (e.g. newspapers, glass bottles, pop cans and plastic soft drink containers) can be collected in the coloured recycling bag. All other refuse may be placed in the standard green bag. At the end of your stay, or when necessary, you may deposit your sealed bags of garbage in the appropriate refuse containers in each of the Park's eight campground areas.

Please leave your campsite neat and clean for others to enjoy. Additional garbage bags are available at the Camp Office.

Comfort Stations

Comfort stations, with hot and cold running water and electrical outlets, are located in the Maples, Pines, Hidden Valley and High Bluff Campgrounds. Toilets are conveniently situated throughout the Park.

Showers

The comfort stations in Maples, Hidden Valley and High Bluff Campgrounds have showers.

Towing Mirrors

Towing mirrors pose a hazard for towed and fellow campers. Please help us to prevent accidents by removing the towing mirrors from your vehicle once your trailer has been unhitched.

Drinking Water

You can get fresh drinking water from any of the water taps or comfort stations in the Park.

Church Services

Interdenominational church services are held at the Park Amphitheatre at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning from Canada Day to Labour Day. The times of other church services in the Brighton area are available from both the Park and Camp Offices.

Pets

Unrestrained pets pose a hazard to park visitors and wildlife. For everyone's health and safety, we ask that you keep your pet on a two-metre-long leash and away from designated swimming and beach areas. Provincial legislation now requires you to "Stoop and Scoop". Please pick-up after your pets.

Park Store

Groceries, ice, camping supplies, fast food and souvenirs are available at the Park Store, south of the entrance to Beach #4. There is also a small Snack Bar on Beach #2.

Bicycle Trails

Cyclists are encouraged to use the Scenic Bike Trail which begins at the park entrance and runs the full length of the park connecting with Lighthouse Lane and out to the Lighthouse

Waterfront Safety

Beach Supervision

Parents, our beach areas are not supervised, so you must assume responsibility for your children's safety and welfare at all times. Please observe the following rules while on the beach or in the water:

- **Never swim alone.** Always use the buddy system. Watch children and non-swimmers at all times.

- Stay close to shore. Wade out and swim in towards the shoreline.
- Use air mattresses and inflatable toys in shallow water areas only.
- When playing with frisbees, footballs or baseballs, move to an uncrowded part of the beach.
- Keep all glass containers, and dogs (and other pets) off the beach.

- Avoid consuming alcohol as it impairs judgment, and is dangerous in combination with swimming.

If you suspect a drowning or any other type of water emergency, please use the emergency phones to contact the Park Office. From the Park Office, we can immediately notify all of our staff by radio.

In An Emergency

First Aid

First aid is available from all Park Offices and vehicles. In the event that you suspect a drowning or require first aid, please approach any member of our staff. Most staff are trained in basic first aid and can offer assistance with minor cuts and scrapes.

Lost Persons

If a member of your group

becomes lost, contact one of our staff immediately. If the lost person happens to be a child, have someone stay at the exact spot where the child was last seen, and someone else wait at the child's campsite.

Emergency Telephones

There are emergency telephones on Beach #1 and #3. When you lift the receiver on one of these telephones, an alarm sounds in

the Park Office and our emergency response plan goes into effect.

Emergency Numbers

Park Office(613) 475-4324
or after hours(613) 475-2204
Police1-888-310-1122
Fire Dept.(613) 475-2233
Ambulance(613) 962-3443
orZenith 90,000
Hospital(613) 962-3443

Interpretive Centre. Please refer to the maps on pages 6 and 12 for exact route. Bicycles are not permitted on the walking trails. Also, keep off the main road between the Park Store and the Camp Office.

Sink Wastes

Please dispose of your waste

water at any vault toilet or at the trailer sanitary station.

Complaints

If you have a complaint, report it immediately to any of our Park Offices or staff. Appropriate action will be taken.

Trailer Sanitary and Refill Station

A trailer sanitary and refill station is located opposite to the entrance to Beach Area #4 along the main park road.

Excessive Noise

Loud music and excessive noise can disrupt a good night's sleep and daytime peace. Please respect the feelings of your fel-

low campers and keep Presqu'île quiet at night and reasonably quiet in the daytime too. Let us know of any incidents of undue noise immediately. With your help, we can ensure that everyone has a pleasant and quiet vacation.

Your Comments Please!

We want to know what you think about our services, facilities and interpretive programmes. Even more importantly, we want you to know that a safe environment is being maintained for you. Please alert us to any conditions that you feel may be hazardous to visitors, and help us to assess the quality of our services by filling out the comment card on the back of your campsite permit and dropping it in the Permit Return Box at the Camp Office when you leave. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Local Events and Attractions

If you would like to know more about the Brighton, Campbellford, Trenton and Bay of Quinte areas, then drop by the Park Office. We think that you will find many of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation's brochures and booklets, as well as the Presqu'île and District Visitors' Guide, particularly useful. For additional information on the local area, call 1-800-ONTARIO.

Leaves of Three — Let Them Be!

Poison Ivy grows in the sandy, open areas along the road near Main Gate and along the edges of the fields in Calf Pasture. If you do not know what Poison Ivy looks like, take time to drop by the Visitor Centre or the Park Office. Staff and brochures are available in both of these locations to help you identify this poisonous plant before you come in contact with it.

Facilities for the Disabled

Facilities for the disabled may be found in all of our campground comfort stations. The Marsh Boardwalk Trail is also now wheelchair accessible.

Campground Road Safety

Many pedestrians use Presqu'île's campground roadways, so please drive with extreme caution and obey all of the signs and speed limits posted in the Park.

Bicycles and motorcycles also must be operated with care, and are not allowed on the walking trails or on the beach.

Litter

Please make use of the waste receptacles provided in our beach and day-use areas. A few minutes of your time will help to keep Presqu'île beautiful.

BIRDING EVENTS

JOIN US EACH SPRING AND FALL FOR...

Waterfowl Viewing

For a short time each spring, Presqu'île's open bays, marshes and ponds attract a terrific number and variety of waterfowl. The Park is one of the best spots in Ontario to observe the annual waterfowl migration.

To help you enjoy what you see and hear, Presqu'île offers two Waterfowl Viewing Weekends. Next year (1998), the weekends are March 27, 28, 29 and April 4, 5. Naturalists will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to operate telescopes, identify the different types of ducks, and point out distinguishing field marks.

Bring binoculars if you have them.

Warblers & Whimbrels

This event focuses on two sought-after groups of migrants at Presqu'île Park. A total of 34 species of colourful warblers



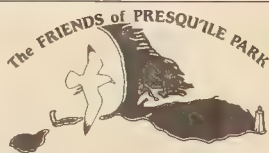
have been seen in spring migration here. Whimbrels are large spectacular shorebirds which migrate through during this period. The Warblers & Whimbrels Weekend will be held on May 17-18 and will include morning bird hikes, a park birdathon and a Sunday evening slide presentation on migration.

Fall Migration

The Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, held from August 30 to September 1, tops off the summer season of interpretive events and programmes at Presqu'île. The weekend offers birders a chance to see and learn more about migrating song and shorebirds. Presqu'île's annual Monarch Butterfly migration is featured on this weekend as well. Slide talks, shorebird viewings, butterfly tagging demonstrations, and special hikes led by park naturalists and guest speakers, make this a very popular three-day event.

All activities are designed for the interested amateur, you don't have to be an experienced birder to participate. Guided bird walks are offered each weekend until Thanksgiving.

If you would like more information, please call the Park Office at (613) 475-4324 or check the bulletin boards throughout the park.



The Friends' Corner

Lending A Friendly Hand

Who are the Friends?

THE FRIENDS OF Presqu'île Park are a group of people dedicated to the protection and preservation of the park's natural and cultural resources. They all share a great love for Presqu'île Provincial Park.

Our non-profit, charitable organization consists of over two hundred members from every walk of life, a board of nine directors, an executive coordinator and representatives of Park administration.

What do Friends do?

Friends of Presqu'île activities fall under two general categories: fund raising and the investment of those funds raised. Our fund raising efforts allow us to provide support services and continuity in Presqu'île Park's natural and cultural projects, that would not otherwise be funded.

Friends Fund Raising: The Friends operate a high quality Nature Store which focuses on the natural and human history of Presqu'île. We carry a wide range of publications and merchandise and our members are entitled to a 15% discount on any purchase at the Store.

Special Events such as the Presqu'île Waterfowl Festival and Christmas at Presqu'île also provide means to raise funds. At the Christmas Arts and Crafts Show part of the profits from the items sold is donated to the Friends. Not only is this show an excellent money maker but it is also a fine example of the commitment shown by Friends members. Dozens of members gladly help, volunteering to take on jobs ranging from the displaying of

arts and crafts for sale to helping park visitors' vehicles.

The same kind of commitment is displayed each spring at the Presqu'île Waterfowl Festival. Friends members work at the gate collecting entry fees; they help at the viewing stations and they work at park facilities where a display of fine waterfowl carvings is located. Without this dedicated and knowledgeable group of volunteers, the largest interpretive event in Ontario's park system, the Presqu'île Waterfowl Festival would not happen.

Friends volunteers provide free hot chocolate or apple juice on special events to Presqu'île campers during the summer season. Donations are welcomed during these events.

Friends Investing: Since our establishment in 1988, the Friends of Presqu'île have accomplished a great deal. These accomplishments range from the establishment of a successful Nature Store to funding several research and resource management projects including Sand Dune rehabilitation and Black and Common Tern habitat enhancement.

The Friends have produced a variety of publications relating to the natural and cultural resources of Presqu'île. This growing series includes the 440 page Birds of Presqu'île Park, bird, butterfly and plant checklists and full-colour specialty booklets such as The White-tailed Deer of Presqu'île Park.

Above: "Richard McArthur, Catherine Clark-Chorney and Anna Warren, provide much needed computer support for the Friends."

Below: "Don Boucher, Chair of the Friends of Presqu'île Park is always on hand to pick-up and do his part in all the Friends activities."

"Catherine Clark-Chorney is the Executive Co-ordinator for the Friends. Catherine selects only the best works of art and craftsmanship from local artisans for the Christmas at Presqu'île Arts and Crafts Show."

Major Friends financial contributions are made each year to fund wage expenses for students at the university and college level. These young people are hired to support interpretive and research activities at Presqu'île and work in our Nature Shop.

Our efforts also currently involve investing funds in specific displays at the new Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, an exciting addition to Presqu'île Provincial Park.

Friends and the Future

We envision a future where the Friends of Presqu'île Provincial Park continue to support Christmas at Presqu'île and the Presqu'île Waterfowl Festival. In the coming years, the Friends plan to develop other events which will focus on activities designed for all users of the park. Your ideas and suggestions are always appreciated.

Much has yet to be accomplished in the production of interpretive literature such as biological inventories and wildlife checklists. Interpretive displays, signage, park research projects and

A MEMBERSHIP FORM IS INCLUDED WITH THIS PUBLICATION ON PAGE 6. (For further information please call...613-475-1688).



"Friends at work and play. Don Ogden 'the elf' provides a colourful and cherry greeting to visitors at Christmas at Presqu'île."

the production of educational displays for all of our friends create continuing demands for the Friends energy and funding programmes.

We are without question one of the most dynamic support groups in Ontario's Provincial Park system.

Anyone can become a Friend of Presqu'île Park. We welcome individuals, special interest groups, park visitors and business corporations. By becoming a member of the organization you will be making a valuable contribution to a very special place.

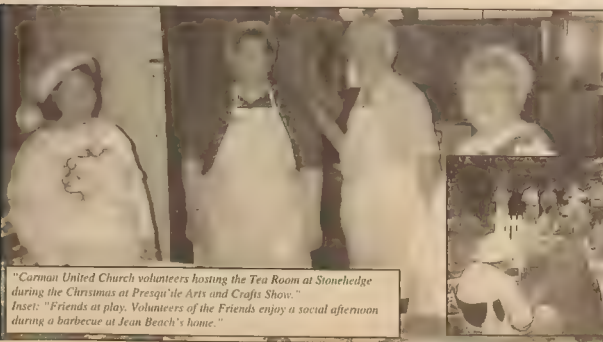
The Friends of Presqu'île Park, as a Canadian non profit charitable organization welcome donations in any amount for either a general or a specific purpose. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

The Friends achievements are entirely due to the tireless and loyal support of our members. I am proud to be associated with people who have cared enough to dedicate their time and talents to help preserve and protect one of Ontario's most beautiful and important provincial parks.

JOIN US AND LEND A FRIENDLY HAND!

Don Boucher /Chair

The Friends of Presqu'île Park ■



"Carman United Church volunteers hosting the Tea Room at Stonehedge during the Christmas at Presqu'île Arts and Crafts Show."

Inset: "Friends at play. Volunteers of the Friends enjoy a social afternoon during a barbecue at Jean Beach's home."

Bayview Farm at Calf Pasture



by Harold Atkins

MY GRANDFATHER. John Atkins, a businessman from New York City, first came to Presqu'île in 1901 to camp during the summer. He and his wife, Marian, fell in love with Presqu'île. They soon built a cottage and, in 1915, purchased the Calf Pasture farm. It included 140 acres of cleared land, buildings, and equipment, as well as 9 head of cattle, 6 horses, 18 sheep, 11 pigs, and a number of chickens, geese, and turkeys. Grandfather added new cow stalls, an ice house, and a milk house with a cream separator and bottling machine. By 1927, he had extended the farm by purchasing all the remaining farms on the bay shore. He and his wife intended to retire here, but he died of a heart attack in 1933.

My father, also John Atkins, but called Jack, was the eldest child. He had graduated from Connecticut Agricultural College, and operated the farm. He changed its focus from a mixed farm to a dairy operation. By the 40's, we had 20 to 25 head of cattle, with about 12 or 15 milking at any one time. A few pigs were still raised and poultry were always kept for eggs and, of course, Sunday dinner. We had 3 or 4 horses (one seen in the photo), even after we bought our first tractor in the late 30's. Our house can be seen in the photo. A small concrete slab near the present road that leads down the

bank to the water was the site of our well. The house was a few feet north and east of this slab.

Oats were grown on the main field at Calf Pasture. However the soil was shallow and the last thrashing was held in 1937. Corn and potatoes were always grown, but mainly on the fields to the west of Calf Pasture. The old apple orchards were used for pastures with only a few trees maintained for family use. A Russet apple tree can be seen just to the east of the old hen house in the photo and its remains are still on the property. One of the trees near the road leading up from the boat launching area is a Northern Spy, which provided the fruit for many an apple pie during the long winters. By the 1940's, the fields in the Calf Pasture area were used mainly for cattle pasture or for hay.

In addition to a dairy farm, we operated a business serving the growing summer population. Bottled milk and cream were delivered to the cottagers until 1937, when we began sending the milk to the Brighton dairy instead. Ice delivery to the cottages became a major business. As well, cottagers stopped at the farm for milk, (many still wanted the farm fresh milk with the cream rising to the top), eggs, poultry, firewood and other items.

Life on the farm for my father and mother (Frances), two brothers, sister and myself was always varied and interesting

during the 30's, 40's and 50's. In the winter we were often the only family on Presqu'île. The west wind, blowing across the bay, often piled up huge drifts. We were always kept busy with farm chores. Cattle had to be milked (by hand if the power failed), and fed with hay, silage and grain. Water was pumped up daily for the cattle, by hand until an electric one was installed. Water had to be carried to the hen house and piggery. The horses were led down to the bay each day for their water after a hole had been cut in the ice. All stock had to be fed and pens cleaned.

Ice was harvested later in the winter. The ice was usually 18 to 30 inches thick in front of the ice house. A crew of 20 to 25 men came for about two days to cut and store the ice. Mother always baked a number of pies and made buckets of coffee for lunch time. Later we covered the ice with sawdust, packing about a foot all around the edges between the ice and the wall, with another foot on the top.

Sometimes when the roads were snow bound, we drove our truck across the bay. One winter in the early 40's, we had to take the milk to town every second day on a sleigh with a team of horses, going across the bay. We didn't mind missing about two months of school!

In the spring the fields for corn and potatoes had to be prepared and seeded. A hundred or more baby chicks were received, kept

warm in the house, and fed until they could be released into the hen house. The cattle were put out to pasture. Often they went as far as the current group camping grounds. At evening, one of the family would go out to bring them in, although sometimes they would have broken through the rail fence and we would have to search for them. After the evening milking, they were pastured in a nearby field.

Summer was our busy time on the farm. Hay was cut, gathered and loaded onto wagons with hay forks. Then it was taken to one of the barns, lifted into the hay mow, and distributed over the mow. That was the hottest place of all to work!

We usually delivered ice four days each week, from the 30's on, during July and August. The blocks were uncovered in the ice house, cut into pieces of about 50 pounds, loaded onto our truck, and washed in the bay. Often my brother (Bob) and I delivered the two or three loads needed at the peak of the ice business in the late 40's, before refrigerators became common.

Presqu'île Point was very busy in the summer. There were often hundreds of cars driving past the farm to the pavilion for the dance, or the Sunday sing song. The main general store, Mayme's, was just west of the hotel/pavilion. Tuesday evening we went to the children's hour of games, etc. at the pavilion. At various times during the summer,

there was a regatta, a large parade, and other activities to take part in or attend. We had four cabins and gas pumps, located just east of the house, during the early 40's, for tourists and motorists. We also cut the grass for many cottagers.

In the fall, we harvested the apples, potatoes and corn. The corn was put through the ensilage cutter, and blown up into the silo for winter feed.

Life on the farm was always interesting and always different. We played a lot of bridge and other card games during the winter. We skated and played hockey on the ice in Calf Pasture Cove. In the summer we were busy, but always found time to visit the pavilion, Mayme's, or the other snack bars, or the sand beach, for swimming.

On September 1st, 1956, the main barn was struck by lightning and burned down. That was effectively the end of the farm. The province was already taking over Calf Pasture in any event for the new park. My parents moved to Brighton in 1959. My brothers, sister, and I had already left home for further education and our own careers. However, we never forgot Presqu'île Point and still gather there for a family picnic every summer, either on the lake shore, or at the site of the old homestead at Calf Pasture.

Harold Atkins (Copyright 1997) ■

An Invasion From The North

IT WAS 3:15 P.M. ON Wednesday, December 13, 1995. With the earliest sunset of the year only eight days away, there was not much more than an hour of light remaining. Assistant superintendent Tom Mates and Norm Dallard were driving through the lengthening shadows. They had just rounded the bend at Chatterton Point, and were heading north on Lakeshore Drive, when they noticed a big, bulky shape in the trees to the east.

Stopping quickly, they resolved the shape into a large bird. Its upright posture and the obvious facial disks indicated at once that it was an owl. The bird was about two feet tall, even larger than the local Great Horned Owl, with grey plumage, a smoothly rounded head without ear tufts, and a long tail. They also noted the mystery owl's yellow eyes and a black area below the bill, with a white patch on either side like a moustache.

After allowing a brief observation, the bird took flight. The owl flapped off to the northeast, utterly silent despite its tremendous five foot wingspan. Tom and Norm drove immediately to a telephone to report the park's first Great Gray Owl in a dozen years.

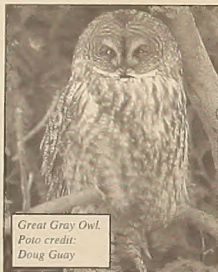
The "Chatterton Point owl" remained in the vicinity until

January 9. Observers regularly saw other individuals in the Bayshore Road - Calf Pasture area, and near the Park Store. One bird was also found dead near the Group Camping Area entrance during the Christmas Bird Count of December 17. In all, Presqu'île was host to at least five Great Gray Owls, up to April 5. An additional eight to 12 birds were recorded just outside the park, with the last sighting on May 2.

People reported many Great Gray Owls across Southern Ontario in the winter of 1995-96. Well over 200 were found in March alone. The invasion extended eastward into Quebec and New Brunswick, and there was apparently some movement in the western provinces as well. A handful of these owls was still present in Southern Ontario in June, and the most impressive sighting concerned one that lingered in Prince Edward County until July 13!

In Canada, Great Gray Owls nest in the western portion of the boreal forest. Their range extends from the Yukon and British Columbia across the northern portion of the prairie provinces and into Northern Ontario. A nest found in Algonquin Provincial Park in 1989 is the southernmost

breeding site in the country. Typically, Great Gray Owls spend the winter in their breeding range. From time to time, the populations of the northern rodents they prey on crash, and birds are forced southward in a desperate search



Great Gray Owl.
Photo credit:
Doug Guay

for food. These movements are termed invasions or irruptions.

In the winter of 1889-90, historical accounts describe a large invasion of Great Gray Owls into Southern Ontario. Irruptions also occurred in the winters of 1965-66, 1970-71 and 1978-79. During the latter season, about 112 birds were found in the southern part of the province, with an additional 222 in the rest of Eastern North America. The most

recent movement, in 1983-84, dwarfed all previous invasions. Observers saw over 400 birds in Southern Ontario, including almost 100 in the Kingston region alone.

There have been reports of single birds at Presqu'île in four previous winter seasons. Great Gray Owls seen on February 23 to April 3, 1966 and February 14, 1971 were presumably associated with the irruptions during those two winter seasons. The 1966 individual may not have survived, as someone brought a dead bird to the park Visitor Centre on May 14 of that year. Birders also recorded sightings from March 27 to April 7, 1960 and from March 11 to April 5, 1967.

The only prior multiple observation on the peninsula involved at least seven birds during the invasion of 1983-84. An additional two birds were seen and photographed just outside the park on January 12, 1984. A bander caught and banded two of these nine birds, and the owls were present in the area until at least February 19.

Drivers often see odd shapes in the treetops - just a quick glimpse of some profile out of the corner of the eye. It's generally nothing noteworthy, perhaps a clump of

leaves, a squirrel nest, or an old webworm tangle. But occasionally, it turns out to be something interesting - perhaps even something big and bulky and Gray.

On December 28, 1995, a Great Gray Owl was seen at Calf Pasture with fishing line in its bill. In spite of efforts to catch this owl to assess its health, the bird proved elusive. Although no information is available concerning this particular owl, the most likely source of the fishing line is from human harassment.

Owls are very sensitive to disturbance. They often roost during the day in prominent locations, frequently along roadsides, resulting in significant numbers being hit by cars or even shot. Word of a sighting spreads quickly, and owls can attract many people. Observers are encouraged to avoid all of the following activities: approaching too closely, making loud noises, creating a commotion (e.g., hitting the roost tree), using flash photography, breaking branches etc., or tormenting birds with fishing gear.

All owls are protected species in Ontario. It is illegal to harass, feed or otherwise interfere with any wildlife in a provincial park. Thank you for your cooperation. ■



The Birder's Notebook

1996 Birding Season Highlights

A NEW GULL SPECIES and a new flycatcher were reported. The first accepted record of Thayer's Gull involved an adult seen off Owen Point on January 13 or 14th. Just 6 weeks later, observers noted a different bird on February 29th. More unexpected was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Chatterton Point on May 23rd. A detailed report of this rarity was sent to the Ontario Bird Records Committee for review.

The winter of 1995-1996 brought impressive numbers of Great Gray Owls, Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks to Southern Ontario. Observers saw at least 12, and perhaps 16 or more Great Gray Owls near Presqu'île in December/January. Two birds were present just outside the park until May 2nd. Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks arrived at about the same time as the owls.

After the departure of the winter "invaders," Southern Ontario was "invaded" again, this time by Willets from the west. The first one in the park showed up on the Beach 4 Bird Hike of May 11th, and stayed for 4 days. Four additional Willets were seen, on June

3, June 7, August 9-18 and August 14-22. There had been only 13 previous Presqu'île records. Not to be outdone, warblers and other songbirds staged their own "big day" on May 18th. Numbers were variously estimated at thousands to tens of thousands of birds.

Noteworthy shorebird sightings included an Upland Sandpiper on August 17th; Western Sandpipers on August 25th, September 5 & 9th; a Long-billed Dowitcher on September 7 & 9th; a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on September 10-11th; and Phalaropes on September 9th (Wilson's) and September 16th (Reds).

Duck watchers turned up some fascinating sightings this year, including a falcon, an owl, a turkey... and a new subspecies of duck. On the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey of January 7th, a Gyrfalcon from the far north was seen off Gull Island. This was only the second record for the park.



Clay-colored Sparrows were found nesting on the peninsula for the first time in 1996. Photo credit: Jim Richards

During the Waterfowl Viewing Festival, one last Great Gray Owl put on a memorable show. It flew past the marsh telescope station on April 5th. Also seen while the festival was on was a Wild Turkey on April 7-8. The turkey was a third new species for 1996. A spectacular find was a Common Teal, the Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal.

Raptors put in a strong showing last year, starting with a Bald Eagle from December 17, 1995 to January 8, 1996. Peregrine Falcons, were noted in the park on September 7, 16-17 and 29th.

Double-crested Cormorant, Sandhill Crane and Red-bellied

Woodpecker are all species that are increasing in Southern Ontario. In 1996, the count of cormorant nests on the Presqu'île islands rose to 3,699, a record tally by 540 nests. The ninth park record of a crane involved a bird that flew over on May 5th.

Red-bellied Woodpecker numbers have swelled markedly since 1995, but the most intriguing report concerned a probable hybrid seen at Presqu'île on May 17th. This bird showed most of the field marks of a red-belly, but had the moustache and yellow underwings of a Northern Flicker. Another interesting woodpecker sighting concerned a flicker seen

on April 28th. The bird appeared to be a typical "yellow-shafted," as expected in the East, but it had the red tail shafts typical of a "red-shafted flicker" from the West.

Clay-colored Sparrows were found nesting on the peninsula for the first time. Singing males were heard at Calf Pasture starting on May 16th. Exactly one month later, diligent observers found a nest with 2 young. The (presumed) same pair of Orchard Orioles tried to nest near Owen Point for the second year. Nesting activity was noted from May 15 to June 6th, but the attempt failed again. ■

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE PRESQU'ÎLE BIRD LIST

Six species have been added to the park list since the publication of *Birds of Presqu'île Provincial Park* by Steve LaForest. Species marked (*) are rarities for which reports have not yet been reviewed by the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

#313	Le Conte's Sparrow	Sept. 19	1992	Don Shanahan
#314	Boreal Owl	Jan. 2	1993	Terry Osborne
#315	Thufted Duck	Apr. 12	1993	Geoff Carpenter
#316	Thayer's Gull	Jan. 13/14	1996	Doug McRae et al.
#317	Wild Turkey	Apr. 7	1996	Jim Kirwan et al.
#318	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	May 23	1996	Bill Stone

Where Have All The Sparrows Gone?

CALF PASTURE IS THE best place in the park to find field birds. Although this area was cleared quite early in Presqu'île's history, it is hardly static. Like all natural sites, the habitat is continually evolving. The birdlife of the Pasture has changed right along with the vegetation.

In pre-settlement days, forest birds inhabited this area. Coniferous sites with a northern aspect were undoubtedly home to the White-throated Sparrow. This large sparrow is easily recognized by the prominent white throat combined with alternating black and white crown stripes. Today, a few pairs still nest elsewhere in the park, and may be found by listening for their plaintive whistled song: *Dear-sweet-Canada, Canada, Canada, Canada.*

During the period of active farming at Calf Pasture, agricultural practices had a major influence on the species present. Grasses cropped short by cattle provided ideal habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows and hayfields were appropriate

nesting sites for Henslow's Sparrows. These species are closely related, and both have a flattened head and a short sharp tail. A very secretive bird, these sparrows are more likely to be heard than seen. Their "songs" are quiet and insect-like, and are often heard in the evening hours. The Henslow's sings see-lick and the Grasshopper pi-tup zeeeeeeeee.

Neither of these birds is apt to be found in the park today, although the Grasshopper Sparrow is quite common in suitable habitat nearby. Unfortunately, the Henslow's Sparrow is now an endangered species in Ontario and is in decline throughout most of its range in the northeastern United States. This species requires large tracts (10 to 30 hectares) of suitable grassland, and is in urgent need of management programs. Last summer, two birds were discovered together in the Kingston Region, leading to hopes that nesting might follow.

Since Calf Pasture was added to the park in 1962, ongoing succession has resulted in the



White-throated Sparrow

area becoming an old field. Parts of the Pasture are now quite overgrown and brushy, with shrubs and small trees interspersed here and there. One of the most distinctive songs of this area is that of the Field Sparrow. It sounds like a ping pong ball bouncing on a table –

slow at the beginning, then becoming faster and faster. These attractive little sparrows have a rusty cap, a white eye ring and a pink bill.

Around the margins of Calf Pasture, conifers planted in the 1930s and 1940s have now grown into sizable trees. This area of open patches of ground with large trees is something of a hybrid type of habitat, neither field nor forest.

In 1996, the area attracted a new species of sparrow to the park. Peter Lane, a visiting birder, was checking out the region on May 16, 1996, when he heard an odd buzzy song. The singer turned out to be a Clay-colored Sparrow. This species has an unmarked breast, an obvious light eye line,

and a distinct ear patch. By early June, three birds had been located.

Observers soon started to wonder about the possibility of breeding, as the habitat seemed highly suitable. On June 16, Maureen Riggs, Shelley Morgan and Michael Heales of the Presqu'île Brighton Naturalists decided to search the area. They were successful in finding a nest. Nine days later, Doug McRae saw the nest with three adults in the immediate vicinity. He noted that the two nestlings had just broken their pin feathers, and estimated that they were about three days from fledging. This was the first known nesting on the peninsula.

The story of Calf Pasture's sparrows is far from over. Visitors who find interesting sparrows are invited to record their observations at the Bird Sightings Board, located near the Camp Office. In fact, staff would appreciate receiving information about any noteworthy bird records in the park. ■

The Sky Is Filled With Wings

ACRISP MORNING IN March, and there is the faint sound of whistling in the air. By the hundreds and the thousands, the scaup are returning to Presqu'île Bay. For uncounted millennia, this bay and its extensive marshes have served as staging grounds for the spring waterfowl migration.

Huddling close against the edge of the ice, the teeming flocks form a constantly shifting mass. Here and there, individual birds mysteriously vanish, while others seem to appear out of thin air. Closer examination in a "scope" reveals that the ducks are diving and surfacing. After staying under for up to a minute, they bob back up to the top like feathered corks. Favoured foods include aquatic plants and invertebrates, especially the dreaded zebra mussel.

Each year, the park holds an interpretive event to introduce visitors to the fascinating world of ducks, geese and swans. Presqu'île will hold its 21st annual Waterfowl Festival on the last weekend in March and the first weekend in April. The dates for this year's Festival are: Friday, March 28; Saturday, March 29; Sunday, March 30; Sunday, April 5; and Sunday, April 6.

At the core of the program are the viewing stations, open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stations are set up at various locations around the park to allow visitors to see as many species as possible. Equipped with spotting scopes, field guides and endless enthusiasm, knowledgeable volunteers at each site will point out

wigeons to courtship displays. Up to 10,000 birds will be present in the waters offshore. In addition to the viewing blind north of the Camp Office and the famous "duck truck" stations, there is a new permanent viewing platform at the lighthouse.

A tea room serving hot drinks

Interpretive Centre. These buildings will also feature the Friends of Presqu'île Nature Shop, as well as duck identification videos and waterfowl posters. The posters will be those entries submitted by local students that won awards in the park's Waterfowl Poster Contest.

January. With fluctuating temperatures, the bay partially thaws and refreezes a number of times each winter. By late March, the final spring is well under way, and the vast flocks are moving through. The peak migration continues into early April. Numbers are dwindling by the end of the month, and the last few birds leave by mid-May.

This species nests on the tundra from Alaska to Ontario and Quebec, with a few scattered populations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It also breeds in Eurasia. Fall migration is a more leisurely affair than the spring movement, with birds passing through Presqu'île from mid-September to late November. Greater Scaup spend the winter on both the east coast (Newfoundland south to Florida) and the west coast (from the Alaska to California), with smaller numbers on Lakes Ontario and Erie. Drakes generally winter farther north than hens. Young birds which are not yet part of the breeding population may spend the summer in the wintering areas.

Like the scaup, people who love nature have been making an annual pilgrimage to Presqu'île each spring for a very long time. The visit is a magical opportunity to join in the cycle of the seasons, to experience the wonder of the migration – and to hear the whistling of a thousand wings. ■



Above: "Ring-necked Duck (drake) diving duck. Photo credit: Doug Guay.

Left: "Northern Pintail (drake) puddle duck. Photo credit: Doug Guay.



and light snacks will be situated at Stonehedge. For the art

Although up to 25 species of waterfowl may be seen on the two viewing weekends, the vast majority are Greater Scaup. These ducks are strictly transients in the park. Some birds move into the bay as soon as the ice begins to melt, perhaps as early as

the birds. They will also explain some interesting behaviours, from feeding frenzies to parasitic

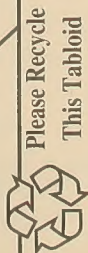
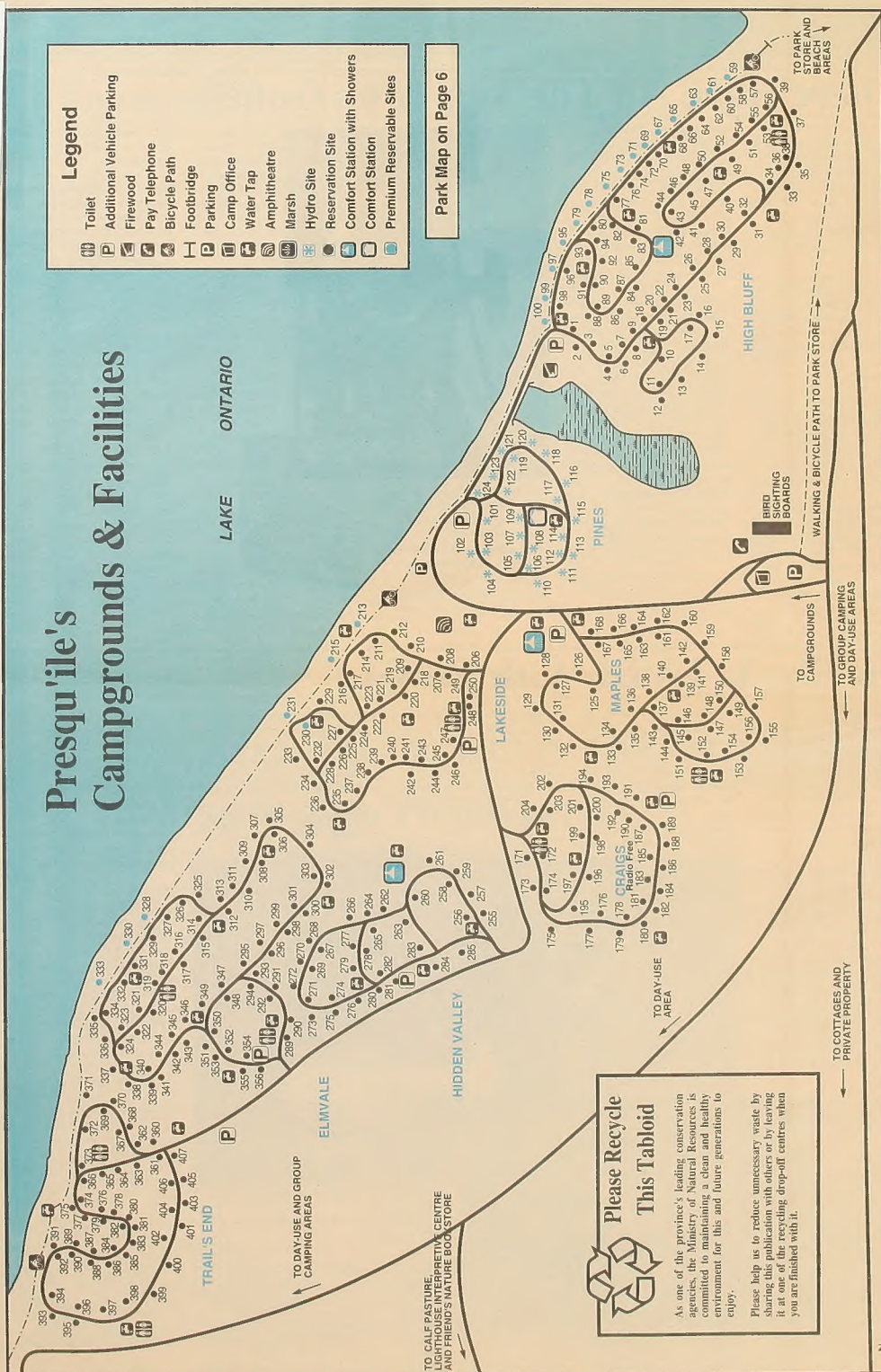
connoisseurs in the family, there will be a "Birds of a Feather Exhibition" at the Lighthouse

Presqu'ile's Campgrounds & Facilities

Legend

- Toilet
- Additional Vehicle Parking
- Firewood
- Pay Telephone
- Bicycle Path
- Footbridge
- Parking
- Camp Office
- Water Tap
- Amphitheatre
- Marsh
- Hydro Site
- Reservation Site
- Comfort Station with Showers
- Comfort Station
- Premium Reservable Sites

Park Map on Page 6



As one of the province's leading conservation agencies, the Ministry of Natural Resources is committed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment for this and future generations to enjoy.

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